

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard**



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Press Release

COAST GUARD, STATE, LOCAL TOWNS TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT SECURITY EXERCISE “CAPE SHIELD”

BOSTON – The Coast Guard and its state and local law enforcement and transportation partners have scheduled an exercise May 4-5 to test multi and inter-agency communication capabilities on land, on the water and in the air in the event of a terrorist threat against the Martha’s Vineyard or Nantucket ferries.

Ferry transits and schedules will not be affected, and passengers on the ferries and in the terminals will be asked not to intervene during the exercise.

“This exercise demonstrates the close cooperation of federal, state, and local agencies as well as the maritime industry in providing for the security of passenger vessels in the Cape Cod and Islands area,” said Coast Guard Captain Mary Landry, Captain of the Port and the Area Maritime Security Coordinator for Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts.

A scenario has been developed that officials expect will assess the ease of coordinating a threat response on board a Steamship Authority or Hy-Line ferry transiting between Cape Cod and the Islands. Officials will also measure the efficiency of a threat response at the Woods Hole, Hyannis, Martha’s Vineyard or Nantucket ferry terminals.

As part of the exercise, Coast Guard crews, Massachusetts State Police, Massachusetts Environmental Police, ferry employees and crewmembers, as well as police and harbormasters from Falmouth, Barnstable, Tisbury, Oaks Bluff and Nantucket, will be on the lookout for “suspects,” hazardous and explosive materials, and any suspicious activity. Participants will also provide on-water escorts to certain ferries once they leave the terminals.

"This type of exercise, although dealing with a specific problem, has greater value, from an All-Hazards perspective," stated Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Acting Director Cristine McCombs. "All of the agencies, organizations and departments who have worked together on this exercise will be the key players working together during any natural or technological real-life emergency."

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